

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 USUN N 06109 140150Z
ACTION IO-13

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SUBJECT: 31ST UNGA, FOURTH COMMITTEE: RHODESIA

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF GOVERNOR SCRANTON'S STATEMENT
ON RHODESIA IN FOURTH COMMITTEE, MORNING DECEMBER 13:

THE FOURTH COMMITTEE MEETS THIS YEAR ON THE QUESTION OF
SOUTHERN RHODESIA IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF HOPE AND CAUTIOUS
OPTIMISM. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A DECADE THIS ASSEMBLY CAN
LOOK FORWARD TO A REALISTIC PROSPECT OF MAJORITY RULE IN AN
INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE. THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A NEGOTIATED
SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM HAS BEEN CREATED AND THE
PARTIES INVOLVED ARE MEETING FACE-TO-FACE OVER THE CONFERENCE
TABLE. WHILE MANY MAJOR PROBLEMS REMAIN TO BE SOLVED,
VIGOROUS EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO ESTABLISH AN INTERIM
GOVERNMENT FOR THE TERRITORY AND THE UNITED NATIONS HAS
EVERY REASON TO LEND ITS SUPPORT TO THESE EFFORTS TOWARD
REALIZATION OF THE LONG-SOUGHT GOAL OF PEACE AND MAJORITY
RULE IN RHODESIA.

THE UNITED STATES IS PLEASED TO HAVE PLAYED A PART IN THE
NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT THE CONFERENCE
CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN GENEVA. WE SALUTE THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT
FOR ITS PROMPT AND EFFICIENT ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 USUN N 06109 140150Z

AND THE EFFORTS OF ITS VERY ABLE CHAIRMAN, OUR COLLEAGUE,

IVOR RICHARD.

WHILE WE ARE PLEASED WITH THE PROGRESS MADE SO FAR, WE ARE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS AS TO THE OBSTACLES WHICH REMAIN FOR THE NEGOTIATORS IN GENEVA. TEN YEARS OF VIOLENCE CREATE DEEP SUSPICIONS AND ANIMOSITY WHICH CANNOT EASILY BE FORGOTTEN. THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY WHO ARE NOW MEETING IN GENEVA MUST RISE ABOVE THEIR OWN PERSONAL FEELINGS AND CONSIDER THE FUTURE OF THEIR COUNTRY AND THE WELFARE OF ALL. THE ALTERNATIVE TO MAGNANIMITY AND COMPROMISE IS ONLY FURTHER VIOLENCE. IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL TO SUPPORT THE CURRENT NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND THE CREATION OF A JUST TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT WITH AN AFRICAN MAJORITY AND AN AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER.

THE UNITED STATES CAN UNDERSTAND THE LEGITIMATE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PARTIES AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND THE REAL PROBLEMS FACING THAT CONFERENCE. WE CANNOT BUT DEPLORE, HOWEVER, THE EFFORTS OF THOSE COUNTRIES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO SEE SOME SHORT RUN GAIN IN FUELING THE FLAMES OF VIOLENCE AND RACIAL STRIFE IN RHODESIA. THOSE WHO BACK THESE GOALS AND WHO ATTEMPT TO SUBVERT A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION ARE NO FRIENDS OF AFRICA OR THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA. THEY OFFER NO CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTIONS BUT SIMPLY CARP AND INSTEAD ENCOURAGE CONTINUED VIOLENCE AND CONTINUED BLOODSHED.

IN ADDITION TO UNITED STATES EFFORTS IN THE DIPLOMATIC CONSULTATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF RHODESIA, MY GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO BEEN ACTIVE THIS PAST YEAR IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS FROM THE TERRITORY. AS A FOLLOW-UP TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PLEDGE IN LUSAKA IN APRIL OF THIS YEAR, TO EXPAND EXISTING PROGRAMS FOR TRAINING NAMIBIAN AND ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES AS ADMINISTRATORS AND TECHNICIANS, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OBTAINED URGENT AUTHORIZATION FROM CONGRESS TO PROVIDE \$2.7 MILLION IN EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO SOUTHERN AFRICAN STUDENTS IN FISCAL YEAR 76, INCLUDING OVER \$1 MILLION FOR ZIMBABWEAN STUDENTS. IN ADDITION, THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, AT THE ADMINISTRATION'S REQUEST, HAS APPROPRIATED \$4 MILLION FOR SOUTHERN AFRICAN STUDENTS IN FISCAL YEAR 77. THESE PROGRAMS ARE DESIGNED TO TRAIN THE FUTURE LEADERS OF ZIMBABWE IN

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 USUN N 06109 140150Z

THE SKILLS NECESSARY TO DEVELOP A NEW NATION IN THE MODERN WORLD.

IN CONCLUSION, MR. CHAIRMAN, I WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE THE SUPPORT OF MY GOVERNMENT FOR A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION IN RHODESIA AND TO CALL ON THIS ASSEMBLY TO OFFER ITS SUPPORT. IN THE LAST ANALYSIS, THE CURRENT CONFERENCE OFFERS THE BEST HOPE FOR A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE, A GOAL WHICH THE UNITED NATIONS HAS WORKED FOR DILIGENTLY

FOR OVER TEN YEARS. AS SECRETARY KISSINGER SAID IN HIS SPEECH
TO THE GENERALASSEMBLY ON SEPTEMBER 30: "THE PEOPLE OF
RHODESIA AND NEIGHBORING STATES NOW FACE A SUPREME CHALLENGE.
THEIR ABILITY TO WORK TOGETHER, THEIR CAPACITY TO
UNIFY, WILL BE TESTED IN THE MONTHS AHEAD AS
NEVER BEFORE." THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT
AT THIS CRUCIAL MOMENT, AND INDEED IT IS CRUCIAL, THE UNITED
NATIONS MUST SUPPORT THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA IN THEIR
EFFORTS TO FORGE A FREE AND INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE.
SCRANTON

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